

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

FOR THE WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING EFFORTS TO EXPAND NEW MEXICO'S FOOD STAMP
ENROLLMENT AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FEDERAL FOOD
STAMP PROGRAM TO NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, low-income New Mexicans are encouraged to apply
for food stamps not only to improve nutrition for New Mexico
families, but also because food stamp benefits have a positive
impact on New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal government funds all food stamp
benefits; and

WHEREAS, in October 2008 alone, New Mexico's one hundred
four thousand three hundred twenty-six food stamp cases
generated over twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) in
the local economy; and

WHEREAS, many low-income New Mexicans who are eligible for

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1 food stamps are not currently enrolled; and

2 WHEREAS, more New Mexicans would benefit if New Mexico
3 joined Arizona, Texas and a growing number of other states that
4 are implementing the expanded federal categorical eligibility
5 options; and

6 WHEREAS, community partners and organizations can assist
7 with food stamp enrollment; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico collaboration to end hunger, the
9 food stamp working group and the governor's poverty reduction
10 task force have set a goal of increasing participation in the
11 food stamp program to include eighty percent of all eligible
12 low-income New Mexicans;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be urged
15 to develop and implement additional outreach efforts to
16 encourage all eligible low-income New Mexicans to apply for
17 food stamp benefits; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
19 be urged to increase the use of community partners and
20 organizations to assist with food stamp enrollment, including
21 applying for and using available federal funding for outreach
22 to support such outreach efforts; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
24 be urged to implement the expanded federal categorical
25 eligibility options; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
2 be urged to increase the use of telephone eligibility
3 interviews and further simplify the enrollment process for food
4 stamps; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
6 be encouraged to provide information to all low-income
7 comprehensive tax rebate recipients about food stamp
8 eligibility and how to apply for food stamps in English and
9 Spanish and to target additional outreach efforts for
10 low-income New Mexicans; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
12 report to the legislative health and human services committee
13 by its November 2009 meeting on the department's efforts and
14 plans to enroll more food stamp clients and the results it has
15 seen from such efforts; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of human services and the chair of
18 the legislative health and human services committee.